NUMB. XLVI.

The GUARDIAN.

Sola eſt cœleſti digna reperta toro. Ov. de Liviâ.

Monday, May 4. 1713.

YEſterday, at my Lady *Lizard*'s Tea-Table, the Diſcourſe happened to turn upon Women of Renown; ſuch as have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the World by ſurpriſing Actions, or by any great and ſhining Qualities, ſo as to draw upon themſelves the Envy of their own Sex, and the Admiration of ours. My Lady has been curious in collecting the Lives of the moſt famous, of which ſhe has a conſiderable number, both in Print and in Manuſcript. This naturally led me to ſpeak of Madam *Maintenon*; and, at the Requeſt of my Lady and her Daughters, I have undertaken to put together ſuch Circumſtances of her Life, as I had formerly gathered out of Books, and picked up from Converſation in my Travels.

Madam *Maintenon* was born a Gentlewoman, her Name is *Frances Daubigné*. Monſieur *Daubigné*, her Grandfather, was not only a Perſon of Condition, but likewiſe of great Merit. He was born in the Year 1550, and died in 1630, the 80th Year of his Age. A little before his Death he writ his own Epitaph, which is Engraven upon his Tomb-Stone in the Cloiſter of St. *Peter*'s Church at *Geneva*, and may be ſeen in *Spon*'s Hiſtory of that Republick. He was a leading Man among the Proteſtants in *France*, and much courted to come over to the oppoſite Party. When he perceived there was no Safety for him any longer in his own Country, he fled for Refuge to *Geneva* about the Year 1619. The Magiſtrates, and the Clergy there, received him with great Marks of Honour and Diſtinction, and he paſſed the remaining part of his Life amongſt them in great Eſteem. *Mezeray* (the *French* Hiſtorian) ſays, that he was a Man of great Courage and Boldneſs, of a ready Wit, and of a fine Taſte in Polite Learning, as well as of good Experience in Matters of War.

The Son of this *Daubigné* was Father to the preſent Madam *Maintenon*. This Gentleman was thrown into Priſon when he was but a Youth, for what Reaſon I cannot learn; but his Life, it ſeems, was in Queſtion, if the Keeper of the Priſon's Daughter (touched with his Misfortunes and his Merit) had not determined with her ſelf to ſet him at Liberty. Accordingly a favourable Opportunity preſenting it ſelf, ſhe ſet the Priſoner at large, and accompanied him her ſelf in his Flight. The Lovers finding themſelves now in no Danger of being apprehended, Monſieur *Daubigné* acquitted himſelf of the Promiſe he had given his fair Deliverer, and married her Publickly. To provide againſt their immediate Want in a ſtrange Place, ſhe had taken with her what ſhe found at home moſt valuable and eaſie to be carried off. All this was converted into Mony; and while their little Treaſure laſted, our new-married Couple thought themſelves the happieſt Perſons living. But that now began to fail, and Monſieur *Daubigné*, who plainly ſaw the Straits to which they muſt be in a little time reduced, notwithſtanding all his Love and Tenderneſs, thought he ſhould ſoon be in a far worſe Condition than that from which he had ſo lately eſcaped him. But what moſt afflicted him was to ſee, that his Wife, whom he loved ſo tenderly, muſt be reduced to the utmoſt Neceſſity, and that too at a time when ſhe was big with Child.

Monſieur *Daubigné*, preſſed with theſe Difficulties, formed to himſelf a very hazardous Reſolution; and ſince the Danger he ſaw in it was only to his Perſon, he put it in Execution, without ever conſulting his Wife. The purpoſe he entered upon, was to venture back into *France*, and to endeavour there to get up ſome of his Effects, and in a ſhort time to have the Pleaſure of returning to his Wife with ſome little Means of Subſiſtance. He flattered himſelf, that he was now no longer thought upon in his own Country, and that, by the help of a Friend, he might continue there unknown for ſome time. But upon Trial it happened quite otherwiſe; for he was betrayed by thoſe in whom he confided; ſo that he was a ſecond time caſt into Priſon. I ſhould have mentioned, that he left his Wife without ever taking leave; and that the firſt Notice ſhe had of his Deſign was by a Letter, which he ſent her from the Place where he lay the firſt Night. Upon the reading of it, ſhe was immediately alarm'd for the Life of a Husband ſo very dear to her; but ſhe fell into the laſt Affliction when ſhe received the News of his being impriſoned again, of which

(Price Two Pence.)

which she had been apprehensive from the beginning. When her Concern was a little abated, she considered that the afflicting of her self cou'd give him no Relief; and despairing ever to be able a second time to bring about the Delivery of her Husband, and likewise finding it impossible for her to live long separated from him, she resolved to share in his Misfortunes, and to live and die with him in his Prison. Therefore, without the least Regard to the Danger of a Woman's travelling in her Condition (for she was now far gone with Child) she entered upon her Journey, and having found out her Husband, voluntarily gave her self up to remain a Prisoner with him. And here it was that she was delivered of that Daughter who has since proved the Wonder of her Age.

The Relations of Monsieur *Daubigné*, dissatisfied with his Conduct and his Marriage, had all of them abandoned him, excepting Madam *Villete* his Sister, who used to visit him. She could not but be touched with the Condition in which she found him, intirely destitute of all the Conveniencies, and almost the very Necessaries of Life. But that which most moved her Compassion was, to see, in the Arms of a Disconsolate Mother, the poor helpless Infant exposed, amidst her Cries, to the Cold, to Nakedness and Hunger. In this Extremity Madam *Villete* took the Child home with her, and gave her to the Care of her Daughter's Nurse, with whom she was bred up for some time, as a Foster-Sister. Besides this, she sent the two Prisoners several Necessaries. Some time after Monsieur *Daubigné* found Means, by changing his Religion, to get out of Prison, upon Condition he would quit the Kingdom; to which he consented.

Monsieur *Daubigné*, knowing he was never like to see *France* more, got together what little Substance he could, in order to make a long Voyage; and so, with a small Family, he embarked for *America*; where he and his Wife lived in Quiet, and made it their principal Care to give their Children (a Son and a Daughter) good Education.

These unfortunate Parents died both in their Exile, leaving their Children very young. The Daughter, who was elder than her Brother, as she grew up, began to be very desirous of seeing her native Country; this, together with the Hopes she had of recovering something of that which once belonged to her Father, made her willing to take the first Opportunity of returning into *France*. Finding therefore a Ship that was ready to Sail thither, she went on Board, and landed at *Rochelle*. From thence she proceeded directly to *Poitou*, and there made it her Business first to enquire out Madam *Villete* her Aunt, who she knew very well was the Person to whom she owed her Life. Madam *Villette* received her with great Marks of Affection; and after informing her, that she must not expect to recover any thing of what had belonged to her Father, since that was all irreparably lost and dissipated by his Banishment, and the Proceedings against him; she added, that she should be welcome, if she thought fit, to live with her, where at least she should never be reduced to want a Subsistance.

Mademoiselle *Daubigné* accepted the Offer which her Aunt made her, and studied by all means imaginable to render her self necessary and agreeable to a Person upon whom she saw that she must entirely depend for every Thing. More especially she made it her Business to insinuate her self into the Affections of her Cousin, with whom she had one common Nurse. And to omit nothing that might please them, she expressed a great Desire to be instructed in the Religion of her Ancestors; she was impatient to have some Conversation with Ministers, and to frequent their Sermons; so that in a short time she began to take a great liking to the Protestant Religion. And it is not to be doubted, but that she would have openly professed this way of Worship, if some of her Father's Relations that were Papists, and who forsook him in his Adversity, had not, to make their own Court, been busie in advertising some great Men of the Danger Mademoiselle *Daubigné* was in as to her Salvation, and in demanding thereupon an Order to have her put into the Hands of Catholicks. This Piece of Zeal was acceptable to the ruling Party, and Orders were immediately given, that she should be taken from her Aunt *Villete*, and put into the Hands of her Officious Relations. This was soon executed, and Mademoiselle *Daubigné* was in a manner forced by Violence from Madam *Villete*, who was the only Relation that ever had taken any Care of her. She shed abundance of Tears at parting, and assured her Aunt, and her Cousin (who was now married to Monsieur *Saint Hermine*) that she should always preserve, with the Remembrance of their Kindness, the good Impressions she had received of their Religion, and never fail to acknowledge both the one and the other, when she found a Time and Occasion proper for it.

I shall give the Sequel of these Memoirs in to-Morrow's Paper.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is now preparing for the Press, A Collection of Original Poems and Translations by the most eminent Hands, to be Publish'd by Mr. Steele. Such Gentlemen therefore who are willing to appear in this Miscellany, are desired to communicate the same, directed to Jacob Tonson Bookseller in the Strand.

A Catalogue of Extraordinary Original Pictures, By Several of the most Celebrated Masters, most part lately brought from beyond Sea; to be Sold by Auction on Friday, the 8th Day of May, 1713, at the Rainbow and Dove, near Durham-Yard, in the Strand, where the Pictures may be viewed the Wednesday and Thursday before the Sale, and Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, and at Mr. Cooper's, at the Three Pidgeons, in Bedford-Street.

To be Sold, by Wholesale or Retale,

Fifty Hogsheads of excellent new French Claret and White Wine, of the true Flavour, newly landed, to compare with any Parcel. To encourage a quick Sale, will be sold from eighteen to twenty Pounds p. Hogshead, and by the Gallon at seven Shillings. Note, Incouragement will be given to those that take a Quantity. Any Gentleman or Retailer, sending a Penny-Post Letter or Servant to the French Wine-Vault under Skinner's Hall in Bow Lane, may be supplyed with Care. Constant Attendance being given.

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